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ADDRESS

OF

JOHN MARSHALL, F.R.S.,

PRESIDENT

OF THE

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL
SOCIETY OF LONDON,

AT THE

ANNUAL MEETING, MARCH 1st, 1884.



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GENTLEMEN,—FELLOWS OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY,—Referring you to the Annual Report of the Council for information concerning the general and financial condition of the Society, I once more, and now for the last time, address myself to the unwelcome duty of alluding to the gaps which have been made by death in the ranks of the Society, during the official year which has just closed in upon us.

Amongst our *non-resident* Fellows, seven have died, viz. : Drs. Hudson, Evans, Iles, Marion Sims, Macnaught, Gully, and Harding. Eight *resident* Fellows have disappeared from our list, viz. : Drs. Meredyth, Hilton Fagge, Robert Druitt, Patrick Stewart, and Jones ; and Messrs. Harper, Phillips, and Montefiore. We have lost but one *Honorary* Fellow, Dr. Wm. Farr.

In speaking of the professional careers of these recently deceased non-resident and resident colleagues, I will follow, as on the like occasion last year, an order corresponding with the length of time during which they have

been numbered amongst us; and I, again, acknowledge my great indebtedness to various periodicals for the facts which I am able to set forth in the following brief narratives.

Robert Samuel Hudson, the first of the *non-resident* Fellows to be mentioned, practised at Redruth in Cornwall. He had been a Fellow for only six years. He was medically educated, partly in Belfast and partly in Dublin. He became a Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, and a Doctor of Medicine of the Queen's University in 1868. In 1880, he was made a Fellow of the Irish College, by examination. His activity as a member of our profession was shown by his occasional contributions to the Medical journals, by his having been chosen President of the South Western Branch of the British Medical Association, and by his having established a local branch of the St. John's Ambulance Society. He also assisted in instituting Popular Science Lectures in Redruth. His death took place last autumn in Ireland, at the comparatively early age of forty years.

George Henry Evans, M.A. and M.D. of Cambridge (1871), entered our profession late in life. He was a Fellow of this Society for nine years. He had been trained partly at Addenbroke's, but chiefly and lastly at St. Thomas's Hospital. His thesis on "*Paracentesis thoracis*," full of elaborate statistics, is published in the 'Reports' of that Institution (V. ii, New Series). Having become an M.R.C.P. in 1871, Dr. Evans was appointed Assistant Physician to Middlesex Hospital (1874). He had special charge of the Skin Department for some time, and a Paper by him, on "*A case of an eruption supposed to be the 'acne cachecticorum' of Hebra*," was published in our 'Proceedings' (V. viii). He was also Lecturer on Public Health. A man of high culture and varied attainments, an able Physician, and a genial colleague, he was compelled to retire as far

back as 1878. He died of general paralysis last September, at the age of forty-eight years.

Francis Henry Wilson Iles, of Watford, Herts, died in that town, also in September, at the age of forty-nine years, from the effects of blood-poisoning, contracted about a month previously during the performance of the operation of tracheotomy. He had belonged to our Society for seventeen years. A native of Lincolnshire, he studied at St. George's Hospital and Medical School, and also in Dublin and Paris. In 1855, having taken the Licentiate-ship of the Society of Apothecaries and the Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons, he was appointed Resident Medical Officer to the Western General Dispensary, to which Institution he acted as Surgeon during the cholera epidemic of that period. In 1859, he became a partner in the practice of Dr. Pidcock, at Watford. In 1862, he acquired the degree of M.D. at Aberdeen. For more than twenty years, he was a successful and much esteemed practitioner and an active townsman, supporting in a spirited manner all kinds of local improvements. He was Surgeon to the West Hertford Infirmary, and Honorary Assistant Surgeon to the 2nd Hertfordshire Volunteers.

James Marion Sims, the well-known American Gynaecologist, was a non-resident Fellow of this Society for eighteen years. He was born in 1813, in South Carolina, and died in New York, on the 18th November last year, in the seventy-first year of his age.

Having graduated at the South Carolina College, he proceeded to study medicine at first in Charleston, but subsequently at the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, from which institution he proceeded M.D. in 1835. In the following year, at the age of twenty-two, he commenced practice in Montgomery, Alabama, where he speedily acquired a considerable reputation as a general Surgeon; but he quickly availed himself of certain special conditions met with in that locality. The very frequent occurrence of vesico-vaginal fistula in the young and pro-

bably imperfectly assisted negresses on the neighbouring plantations, turned his attention to that injury, and induced him to make persevering attempts to cure it by operation. After having repeatedly failed, as he concluded, through the use of silk sutures, he tried silver wire, and then met with great success. By further improvements in many details,—as in the form of the speculum employed, and in the modes of paring the edges of the wound, of introducing and securing the silver wires, of supporting the sides of the wound, and of ensuring the constant evacuation of the urinary bladder,—he at last obtained the most brilliant results. Other Surgeons had, no doubt, preceded him in the performance of this operation, and some of his coadjutors, more especially Dr. Bozeman, shared the merit of introducing certain important improvements in it; but from his great ingenuity, his unremitting perseverance, and his manual dexterity, his personal achievements were pre-eminent, and his name has been and will continue to be especially remembered in connection with this great triumph of the Surgical art.

Having moved, in 1853, from Montgomery to New York, Dr. Sims practised for about a dozen years in the last-named city, during which period, however, he visited Europe; and he so frequently expounded and demonstrated his mode of operating, at different hospitals in Dublin, London, Brussels, and Paris, and was so frequently consulted by private patients, that he became recognised as almost a European practitioner.

It was not alone by this one operation that Dr. Sims gained his widely-spread reputation, or conferred the greatest benefit on womankind. It was through his instrumentality that the New York State Women's Hospital was founded. He was its first Physician, and he contributed largely to the acknowledged efficiency of that important Institution, which has, indeed, formed a centre from which so much and such beneficial scientific and practical knowledge has been diffused through the whole of the United States. From his labours in this field, Dr.

Sims has been credited with having led the way to the establishment of a special department of practice, viz. Gynæcology, as distinguished from Obstetrics proper, or pure Midwifery.

During and after the great civil strife in America, Dr. Sims' Southern feelings may have been somewhat tried. Some tension also occurred in his relations with his hospital colleagues. No doubt, temptations likewise arose to extend his fame and his practice in Europe. He left New York for London in 1865, and remained amongst us until 1868, occasionally visiting the Continent. During the rest of his active life, he may be said to have migrated between New York, London, Brussels, Paris, Nice, and Rome. It is a singular episode in his career that in 1870, at the age of fifty-seven, he left Paris as Chief Surgeon to the Anglo-American Ambulance Corps, which did such good service at Sedan, in helping to heal some of the physical injuries inflicted in the Franco-German war. I am here reminded that others of our Fellows—I will venture to particularise Sir Wm. MacCormac and Mr. Marcus Beck—also lent their Surgical aid in that great struggle.

It was in 1881, during one of his temporary halts in London, that Dr. Sims had a very dangerous attack of pneumonia, through which he was diligently and safely guided by another of our Fellows, Dr. William Ord. So recently as last August, he was again in London, in seemingly good health. In November, he was about to leave New York to pass the winter in Italy, but was induced to remain a week or so longer than he intended, in order to undertake an operation. Having complained one evening of pain in the region of the heart, he died from an attack of angina in the course of the ensuing night.

It is worthy of note that Dr. Sims never held any post as a Lecturer or Professor, and certainly his pen was not so prolific as might have been expected. In early life, he published a paper on "Trismus Nascentium;" after that, a defence of the "Silver Wire Sutures;" then essays

on "Ovariectomy," on "Intra-Uterine Fibrous Tumours," and on the "Use of the Microscope in the Study of Uterine Diseases;" comparatively recently, an account of "A Case of Cholecystotomy" (an operation which he himself was amongst the first to perform); and lastly, a contribution on the "Treatment of Gunshot Wounds of the Abdomen." His most original work, entitled 'Clinical Notes on Uterine Surgery,' requires special remark. It abounds in valuable matter and suggestions; but the proposal which it contains, to treat sterility in women by artificial impregnation, gave a shock to social, legal, and medical susceptibilities, as involving questions of social propriety, of possible fraud, and of professional self-respect. His long-established general and special reputation survived this doubtful recommendation.

Dr. Sims was honoured by decorations from many European Governments; he received titles from numerous American and European Scientific and Medical societies; and in 1876, he was elected President of the American Medical Association. His personal appearance and genial manners impressed most people favorably towards him. He was of a warm temper, but not of an irreconcilable disposition. His place in our profession is unique, for no man hitherto has commanded so wide a reputation, extending beyond both shores of the great Ocean, which he so frequently crossed and recrossed in search of experience, and of increased opportunities of doing good, as well as of gaining recompense and fame.

John Macnaught, a Physician who had practised for twenty-five years in Jamaica, and subsequently for twenty years in Liverpool, died at the house of his son in Kensington, towards the end of last year, at the patriarchal age of ninety years. He had been for forty-one years a non-resident Fellow of this Society.

Born in 1793, he became a Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and M.D. of Aberdeen in 1815; and in 1838, F.R.C.P.Ed.

Having gained an excellent reputation in Jamaica, he

returned to England, resumed a course of Medical study in London, and then established himself in Liverpool, where he was known as an able, zealous, and kind practitioner. He was Honorary Physician to the Liverpool School for the Indigent Blind, in which Institution he took a keen interest, and for his services to which he was presented with a piece of plate. As evidence of the esteem in which he was held by his professional brethren, it may be mentioned that in 1865, he was chosen Vice-President, and afterwards President of the Liverpool Medical Institution. The disabilities incident to age, and especially the occurrence of cataract, at length compelled him to retire; but he continued to be a striking example of prolonged vigour, and of the retention of an active and cheerful mind, to the latest days of his existence.

James Manby Gully, the well-known Malvern Hydro-pathist, was a Fellow of this Society for as many as forty-six years. He died nearly a year since at the age of seventy-six.

Dr. Gully took his degree of M.D. in Edinburgh in 1829. Giving early proof of culture, he published, in 1834, a translation of Tiedemann's '*Physiologie des Menschen*,' and in the two following years, a version of Broussais' '*Pathologie Generale*,' which appeared in the form of Lectures in the '*London Medical and Surgical Journal*,' Vols. vii and viii, 1835-36. Soon after, there appeared in the '*Liverpool Medical Gazette*,' his "Remarks on the Rationale of Morbid Symptoms;" and, subsequently to this, he published two essays on the "Symptoms and Treatment of Neuropathy" (1837), and on the "Simple Treatment of Diseases by Expectants and Revulsives" (1842). The tendency therein displayed to some form of Monotherapeutics culminated in his treatise on '*The Water Cure in Chronic Disease*,' and in his still more popular works, '*A Guide to Domestic Hydrotherapeia*' and '*The Water Cure in Acute Diseases*.' His success in this particular line of practice at Malvern, was both rapid and great; but since his retirement, and now after his

decease, he may be said to have left but little mark on the pages of the genuine Medical record.

John Fosse Harding, who was elected into this Society forty-seven years since, appears, for a time, to have been a resident Fellow, for he was a member of the Council in 1858-9. But, latterly, he has lived in the country, for a time at Uckfield, in Sussex, and finally at Hornsey. He was educated at St. Bartholomew's, passed at the Hall and College in 1835, and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1852.

Adolphus William Leodore Colomiati Meredyth, the first of the *resident* Fellows whose professional career I have to chronicle, belonged to the Society for sixteen years.

Having been educated in Paris, and having served as an Externe at the Hôpital du Midi, and at the Hôpital St. Louis, he was led to volunteer for service with the French army in the East, during the Crimean war. He was Assistant Surgeon to the Barrack Hospital at Scutari, to the Pera Hospital at Constantinople, and to the Osmanli Horse Artillery. He, moreover, aided in founding the Imperial Medical Society at Constantinople.

On returning to France he took the degree of M.D. in Paris, in 1856; and in the following year, he became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Being thenceforth established in London, he joined not only this Society but the Medical Society of London, the Harveian Society, and the British Medical Association. He was one of the Physicians to the French Hospital in Lisle Street, and Medical Officer to the French Benevolent Society.

His written works, three in number, were on 'The Duality of Venereal Ulcers' (1866), on 'The Rational Employment of Mercury in the Treatment of Syphilis' (1866), and on 'Hygiene in Relation to Syphilis' (1867).

At the festival held this day last week in aid of the French Hospital, Mr. Crawford, the Secretary, spoke of Dr. Meredyth as one "revered alike for his kindness to

his patients, and his genial disposition towards his colleagues ;" while Dr. Vintras, one of those colleagues, speaks of their sorrow at his loss, his devotion to the Hospital, and the deep regrets of his patients.

Philip H. Harper, L.S.A. (1854), M.R.C.S. (1845), and F.R.C.S. by examination (1858), was a Fellow of the Society for seventeen years. He was, for a time, Surgeon to the London Surgical Home for Diseases of Women. He published a paper "On the more frequent Use of the Forceps" ('Obstet. Transac.,' V. i), and another in the 'Brit. Med. Journal' (1860), on "Successful Ovariectomy." He was a devotee of entomological science.

Charles Hilton Fagge was one of those men who attract unusual notice during their lifetime, and whose premature death excites the deepest regret. His early career was so brilliant, and his realised position so conspicuous, that nothing but frail health and a fatal malady interposed between him and the highest professional success. He was a Fellow of the Society for nineteen years, during which period he rendered it both varied and important services. He was a Member of the Library Committee and also a Referee from 1874 to 1879; a Member of a Scientific Committee in the last-named year; on the Council in 1880-81; and, last March, was elected Honorary Librarian, an office which he was obliged to decline owing to ill-health. Considering that Dr. Fagge also contributed seven papers to our 'Transactions,' some special tribute is certainly due to his memory on this occasion.

Dr. Fagge was born in 1838, at Hythe, where his family had practised for two generations. His father, Mr. Charles Fagge, still lives at Hythe; one brother practises at Lutterworth, and another resides alternately at Pau and Arcachon. His mother was a sister of the late Mr. John Hilton, the well-known Surgeon at Guy's Hospital.

As a student at the Great Boro' School, under the auspices of his Uncle, he showed remarkable ability and

power of application. On matriculating at the University of London, he gained, in Honours, the first place in Botany, and the second in Chemistry. At the first M.B. examination, he secured three Exhibitions, viz. in Anatomy, Physiology, and Chemistry, and the Gold Medal in Botany. At the second M.B. examination, he obtained the Scholarship in Comparative Anatomy and Physiology, an Exhibition and Gold Medal in Medicine, a Gold Medal in Surgery, and a second place in Midwifery. Such a wealth of honours had never before, and, I believe, has never since, fallen to any one graduate of that University. Having been chosen a Member of the Committee of Convocation, he took an active part in its proceedings; and, at the time of his death, he was engaged in the responsible work of one of his University's Examiners in Medicine.

Although a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, Medicine was Dr. Fagge's forte, and distinction in it his ambition. In 1864, he became a Member, and in 1870, a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. At Guy's Hospital and Medical School, he passed through many important junior offices, such as that of Demonstrator of Anatomy, Medical Registrar, Lecturer on Hygiene and also on Pathology, and Demonstrator of Cutaneous Diseases. He was elected Assistant Physician to the Hospital in 1867, and after thirteen years of active Clinical work, he was made full Physician in 1880, in succession to Dr. Habershon. He had already held the offices of Physician to the Royal Infirmary for Women and Children, and to the Evelina Hospital for Children.

It is impossible to mention here all Dr Fagge's most numerous and, it may be added, sound contributions to Medical literature and knowledge. To the seven papers which he contributed to our 'Transactions,' between 1852 and 1864, must be added at least twenty others written between 1864 and 1881, most of them for 'Guy's Hospital Reports.' The most noticeable of these were, one on "Poisons," showing the importance of using Physiological tests for their detection, and written many years before

the actual employment of this method in Medico-legal inquiries. Other papers relate to Abdominal diseases and their treatment; to Aneurism, disease of the Heart, and certain rare forms of Cutaneous disease. He translated a work of Hebra's on Skin diseases. He also published a catalogue of the Guy's Museum-models of those diseases, and was the author of the article on "Valvular Disease of the Heart," in 'Reynolds' Cyclopædia of Medicine.' He had accumulated a rich collection of pathological and clinical notes, and had been long engaged in the preparation of a System of Medicine, which it is understood some friendly hand will one day edit for publication.

In all this, we have signs of indefatigable mental energy, proof of great preparedness for teaching, security for winning confidence as a consultant, and a promise of the most substantial success.

The formation of a thoracic aneurism, accompanied by aortic valvular disease, and their inevitable consequences, destroyed these bright prospects. It is said of him, however, in one journal, "Few of those he leaves behind him can be expected to attain the high position to which he seemed so surely and rapidly mounting. It is not only the brilliant physician whose loss to medicine we have to deplore, but, in the case of those who knew him, it is the loss of a true, warm-hearted, and eminently lovable man."¹ In another journal we read—"If an unblemished character, good social standing, proneness to hospitality, troops of friends, a brilliant university career, high professional attainments, and an ardent love for the investigation of scientific problems, could combine to render a man useful to his fellow creatures, and to conduct himself to wealth and fame, they seem to have been so united in the case of Charles Hilton Fagge."²

There has just been announced an intention, on the part of his numerous friends, to perpetuate his exceptional fame by some appropriate memorial. He died on the 18th of November last.

¹ 'Lancet,' Dec. 1, 1883.

² 'Brit. Med. Journ.,' Nov. 24, 1883.

Robert Druitt's vigorous personality and completely accomplished mission suggest a more robust portraiture and a less sad history than those on which I have just had to dwell. He was born at Wimborne, in Dorsetshire, where his father and his father's family had practised for upwards of a hundred years. On his mother's side he was related to the typical Medical family of the Mayos. He died on the 15th of last May, in the sixty-ninth year of his age. He had enjoyed the Fellowship of this Society for thirty years, and he contributed to its 'Transactions' one paper on "Gastrotomy" (Vol. xxxi), and another on "Degeneration of the Placenta" (Vol. xxxvi).

Having received a classical education at the local Grammar School, the benefits of which lasted him through his life, he worked his way deliberately up to the position of a qualified practitioner through the once time-honoured but now out-of-fashion apprenticeship system. Thus, he was articled for four years to Mr. Charles Mayo, of Winchester, came thence, in 1834, to King's College and Middlesex Hospital, and by 1836 and 1837, he duly appeared as a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries and a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons.

But the bent of his inclination was to literary work, and his sturdy resolution to occupy his early leisure in this direction, and yet to keep on strictly professional lines, was shown by the publication, in 1839, when he was about twenty-five years old, of the first edition of his ultimately celebrated 'Surgeon's Vade Mecum.' Of this work the industrious and erudite Author prepared, in the following thirty-nine years, ten subsequent editions, the last being issued in 1878. On each occasion, changes, extensions, and improvements, were introduced, and fresh illustrations were inserted; and the total number of copies sold, amounting, it is said, to 40,000, affords unequivocal testimony to Robert Druitt's honest endeavour to render perfect his long-continued and genial task. Perhaps no manual ever manifested greater vitality or enjoyed such uniform and constant favour. Intended at

first for students, it became at length a practitioner's book. Its information was reliable; the views of the various authorities which were quoted in it were precisely set forth; and there were scattered, throughout, in the later editions, many shrewd criticisms and hints, expressed in clear and vivid language. The illustrations, though small in scale, were admirably drawn and engraved, chiefly by the family of the Bagg's. Some of the editions were re-printed, and some were translated, abroad.

The maintenance of his one pet book up to the current state of Surgical knowledge and practice by no means exhausted Druitt's literary force, or filled entirely the intervals of his professional labours. For, during a period of ten years, he was the able and esteemed editor of the 'Medical Times and Gazette.' He published a little volume on 'The use of Chloroform and other means of Producing Insensibility to Pain;' and he was the author of the very learned historical and critical article on "Inflammation," in the last edition of Samuel Cooper's 'Dictionary of Practical Surgery.' Besides this, he wrote numerous official reports as Medical Officer of Health to the Parish of St. George's, Hanover Square; and he found time to formulate his opinions on many sanitary and dietetic subjects, such as "Human Habitations in Relation to Health," "Water Supply," and the use of "Raw Meat," &c. In a famous series of letters, which first appeared in the 'Medical Times and Gazette,' but were afterwards published collectively, he developed his views on the use and value of "Cheap Wines." His minor papers, addresses or letters, were very numerous.

It must be remembered, too, that from the year 1840 to 1872, Druitt was engaged in practice. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1845; and, as late as 1874, a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians also. He was for eight years, President of the Association of Medical Officers of Health; for a short time, Vice-President of the Obstetrical Society; and also an Examiner to the Society of Apothecaries.

Obviously a man of vigorous physique, with a well disciplined and methodically working intellect, he was nevertheless at last compelled to retire from practice, by sufferings of extreme severity. In the midst of these, he continued to work cheerfully on his 'Vade Mecum;' and he received much consolation, in the presentation to him by some of his friends (numbering upwards of 450), of a cup containing £1215, which was offered to him not merely in acknowledgment of his useful labours as an Author, Journalist, and Sanitary Reformer, but by way of furnishing him with a tangible token of their sympathy and regard. There can be no doubt that his work in the world was well and truly done.

Richard Phillips, of Leinster Square, had belonged to this Society for thirty-one years, and served on its Council in 1877. He was educated at Guy's Hospital, and became L.S.A. and M.R.C.S. in 1836, and F.R.C.S. in 1855. In 1857, he published a successful case of "Infantile Hydrocephalus, treated by Elastic Pressure." He was engaged throughout his professional career in general practice, at first in the north of London, but latterly in Bayswater. He enjoyed, in a marked degree, the confidence and esteem of a very large circle of patients and friends.

Nathaniel Montefiore was rather a nominal than an actual or practising member of the Medical profession. He was, however, for thirty-nine years in the ranks of this Society. Educated at Guy's Hospital and Medical School, he obtained the Membership of the College of Surgeons, in 1842, and the Fellowship by election in 1858. He appears to have resided chiefly in London, but frequently in his country house near Southampton. He was extremely well known for the great interest which he manifested in numerous Medical, Scientific, and Charitable Institutions.

Alexander Patrick Stewart, who died last July, nearly seventy years of age, had been for forty-one years a Fellow of this Society. He served on the Council in 1856-7; he

was an Honorary Librarian from 1863 to 1868; and a Vice-President in 1871 and 1872. He was also a Member, and for a time, a Vice-President of the Clinical Society.

Dr. Stewart was born at Bolton Manse, in East Lothian, where his father, the Rev. Dr. Andrew Stewart, a quondam Physician, was the Minister; his mother was the Honourable Margaret, daughter of the tenth Lord Blantyre. Having been sent to Glasgow at the early age of thirteen years, he passed into the Faculty of Arts, and afterwards into that of Medicine; and, having visited the Continent, returned to Glasgow to obtain his M.D. degree in 1838.

In the Infirmary belonging to that city, whilst acting as House-Surgeon, Dr. Stewart was brought into relation with many fever patients; and, as he had already commenced to practise in London in 1839, it was apparently in Glasgow, and probably afterwards in Paris, that he made those clinical observations and records, on which he founded a highly important communication on the "Distinctions between Typhus and Typhoid Fever," which he presented to the Medical Society of Paris in April, 1840, and subsequently wrought into an article, printed in the 'Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal' for October of that year.

In this early and noteworthy effort at clinical investigation and analysis, Dr. Stewart really succeeded, according to the late Dr. Murchison, in demonstrating "a distinction between Typhus and Typhoid, founded on a comparison of their origin, proximate causes, course, symptoms and anatomical lesions, including the difference in the eruptions which accompany the two diseases. He pointed out that their characters taken collectively, were, as he said, so marked as 'to defy misconception,' and 'to enable the observer to form with the utmost precision the diagnosis of the disease, and the lesions to be revealed by dissection.'"

It has been pointed out that, in Paris, Dr. Stewart would most probably become acquainted with the views of M. Chomel, who, as well as some other observers,

had already suggested a difference between the two fevers ; but he was the first to publish such an opinion in this country, and he supported his statements by numerous facts observed and methodised by himself. Partly, perhaps, from his own question, put towards the conclusion of his article, with regard to these fevers, " Are they identical or not ?" and partly, from his remark that " all I can ask for is a careful, extensive and minute inquiry,"—but, chiefly, one would believe, from his not having possessed the authority which attaches to age, official station or previously known work, his interesting and valuable contribution to Medicine failed to create the impression it deserved to do. At least, it is known to all present, that it was Sir Wm. Jenner's precise statements and inferences, subsequently published, which cleared away all doubts, and finally determined the general opinion on the subject.

After having practised for several years in London, and having held the office of Physician to the St. Pancras Infirmary, Dr. Stewart was elected, in 1850, Assistant Physician to the Middlesex Hospital, and full Physician in 1855, an office which he resigned in 1866. In the Medical School of that Institution, he lectured first on *Materia Medica* with Dr. Gordon Latham, and afterwards on Medicine in conjunction with Dr. Seth Thompson and Dr. Goodfellow.

But Dr. Stewart's time and thoughts had already begun to be occupied by other subjects than those connected with clinical study and practice, and by degrees he had become deeply engrossed in them. As far back as 1853, he was a Member of the British Medical Association, and he sat on the Council of its Metropolitan Branch for nearly thirty consecutive years. In this capacity he was assiduous and untiring. During sixteen of these years, in which he was one of the Secretaries, his work was incessant and of the highest utility. He was once nominated President elect of the Metropolitan Branch, and on two subsequent occasions was again solicited to

accept that office, but he always declined on the ground of its burdens and anxieties. He was, however, a Vice-President for three years. As a testimony to his efficient service and estimable private character, the Members of the British Medical Association presented him, in 1875, a sum of money, with a portion of which, handsome breakfast and dinner services were purchased; but the balance, amounting to £400, was generously returned by him to the Association for the purpose of founding a prize for "the Encouragement of Researches into the Origin, Spread, and Prevention of Epidemic Diseases." The first award of "The Stewart Prize" was made, in 1882, in favour of Dr. Vandyke Carter, for his investigations on *Spirillum Fever*.

Questions relating to Social and Sanitary Reform early attracted Dr. Stewart's attention; for, in 1849, he published an essay on "Sanitary Economics; or, our Medical Charities as they are, and as they ought to be," a serious subject again forcing itself upon our notice at the present time. In 1854, he summarised, in a paper in the 'Medical Times and Gazette,' an account of "The Cholera as it had been observed in the Middlesex Hospital." As to his subsequent literary work, it was no longer clinical, but sanitary. Amongst numerous contributions of that kind made to the 'Transactions of the Social Science Congress,' to the meetings of the Metropolitan Branch of the British Medical Association, and to the Medical periodicals, mention may here be made of one, in conjunction with Mr. Jenkins, on "The Medical Aspects of Sanitary Reform" (1866), and another, so recent as 1882, on "A Home for Convalescents from Scarlet Fever."

A man of the highest principles, and with the strictest adherence to them, Dr. Stewart was esteemed by all, even by those from whom he differed in opinion, his own being sometimes very warmly expressed. His religious impulses took the practical direction of inaugurating, or assisting in the conduct of Sunday classes for young men, and in missionary services amongst the poor, connected with the

Scotch Church of which he was a member. He did all his work, Medical as well as any other, he said, "much less as a duty than as a privilege." As a Clinical observer, a practical Physician, and a labourer in the field of Medical, Sanitary, and Social improvement, he was, as has been truly said, "an ornament to our Profession."

Thomas William Jones, M.D. of Paris (1834), and M.R.C.S. (1836), was for forty-six years a Fellow of this Society, and held a seat in its Council in 1858. He wrote, probably as his inaugural thesis, "*Considerations déduites de l'Anatomie Comparée relatives à differens points d'Ovologie.*" In London, he was best publicly known as a Physician to the City Dispensary, and to the Provident Clerks' Association. Latterly he retired to Bylochs, Enfield Highway, where he died last May.

William Farr, the *Honorary* Fellow whose death we have had to lament during the last twelve months, died on the 14th April, 1883, in the seventy-sixth year of his age. He had been an *Honorary* Fellow of this Society for 26 years.

He was born in 1807, at Kenley, in Shropshire, and received his early training in the Grammar School at Shrewsbury. His medical education seems to have been partly carried on in the then so-called University of London, and partly in Paris. Having become qualified in 1832, he acted for a time as House Surgeon to the Infirmary at Shrewsbury; and, thus far, his career was in no way distinguished from that of many accomplished young practitioners of his day.

But there gradually opened for him, in the direction of literary and scientific work, a special path which he henceforth sedulously pursued. He became Editor of the '*Medical Annual*' and of the '*British Annals of Medicine*,' in which positions he strengthened his unrivalled powers of gleaning and collating facts, and of using them for the purposes of induction.

In 1838, he first entered the Registrar General's Office,

and was soon after appointed Superintendent of the Statistical Department. Herein he continued to labour with extraordinary zeal and success for rather more than forty years. As may be supposed, during this long period of his official life, he received from many quarters marks of consideration and distinction. He was elected F.R.S. in 1855; M.D. of Trinity College, Dublin; D.C.L. of Oxford, in 1857; and a Corresponding Member of the Institute of France, in 1872. He retired from his government post in 1879 with a full pension, and the decoration of Companion of the Bath.

From the date of his appointment in the Registrar General's Office, he was the principal Author of that classical series of Annual Reports, extending from 1837 to 1878, which relate to the births and deaths in different parts of the kingdom. Under his guidance, these documents ripened into full epitomes of the causes of mortality amongst our population, and of the state of health and laws of longevity amongst its various classes. His command of mathematics as an instrument of analysis, his personal study and care in regard to all matters of arrangement, calculation and execution, the logical character of his generalisations, and the usually practical value of his suggestions, were freely acknowledged by all; whilst the occasional introduction of a speculative or even prophetic element into the treatment of his subject, and his often picturesque style, gave to many of these reports a certain charm beyond their avowed utility. The general excellence of his methods has been freely admitted; they have gained a high reputation for our English statistical life-records; and they have supplied models for study and imitation in other countries.

But Dr. William Farr's statistical work extended beyond the compilation of these 'Annual Reports.' Week after week, especially in times of epidemic afflictions, notes and echoes of counsel and warning were issued from his office. He was, moreover, mainly responsible for the general organisation of the Censuses for 1851, 1861, and 1871,

and he prepared the elaborate "Reports" on the movements of the Population therein revealed. He constructed three sets of "Life Tables" founded on the census and mortality records, taking on each occasion a wider and firmer grasp of his complex problems, and solidifying the bases of his calculations for the "Annuity Tables" still in use. He brought his powers to bear upon the elucidation of questions relating to the various kinds of Life Policies, to the proper incidence of an Income Tax, to the due employment of Benevolent Funds, and to the Economics of the Post Office Insurance. He also contributed the article on "Vital Statistics" to MacCulloch's 'Statistics of the British Empire.' In a more strictly Medical direction, he twice reported on Cholera, viz. on the epidemic of 1848-9, and on that of 1866. He aided in determining the precise Nosological terms to be used for the purpose of defining the causes of death in the registration records, and he acted on the Royal Commission for inquiring into the Sanitary Condition of the Army in India.

It is scarcely needful to observe that so eminent a statistician as William Farr was an indispensable member of the Statistical Society, which he joined almost at its formation, and on the Council of which his name will be found for forty years. He was a Vice-President of that Society, contributed at least twenty papers to its 'Transactions,' and was appointed its delegate to more than one International Statistical Congress.

"Vital statistics," indeed, were the breath of his mental life, and his name will ever be associated with the history of that department of numerical research. Though short in stature, he had a capacious head, and his mental organisation was evidently adapted for prompt and vigorous, as well as for persistent and solid, work. He also possessed a marked talent for administration and control, for, in his official position and work, he commanded the services of many coadjutors. It was a source of great disappointment to his immediate friends, and especially to those,

belonging to the Medical profession, that on the retirement of Major George Graham, with whom he had been so long and so agreeably associated, he was not promoted to the office of Registrar-General. But it was perhaps well for himself, at his age, to be spared further official duty and anxiety. He did not long survive his own consequent retirement, but he must have been gratified and consoled by the warm sympathy and good wishes of his friends, and by the universal acclaim of the rare, honorable, and lasting services which he had rendered to his country.

Having now mentioned the several regrettable casualties which have befallen the Fellows of our Society during the last year, I must, in accordance with the promise I made a few weeks since, and doubtless in harmony with your wishes, refer to another loss which we have recently sustained in the sudden and unexpected death of a lamented salaried officer, our late valued Resident Librarian.

Benjamin Robert Wheatley was born at the house of his father, Mr. Benjamin Wheatley, the book auctioneer of Piccadilly, and died in this house, as it may be said, at his post. He therefore lived and died amongst books.

Losing his father in early life, he was left, as the eldest son, the sole support of his stepmother and of a young family. Two years later, his stepmother, to whom he was warmly attached, also died, so that the responsibility of the family henceforth devolved upon him and upon his eldest sister. His two younger brothers have always regarded him as a father, and to him, as they acknowledge, they owe their present position. In his firm devotion to those left to his care, he decided to remain a bachelor, although no one could be more fitted for a domestic life.

After his earlier years, Mr. Wheatley's career was not an eventful one. At the age of seventeen, on leaving King's College School, he assisted in cataloguing for his father the last part of the great Heber Library. This

duty well done seemed to indicate to him his future line of occupation, and from that time to his death he gave up his entire thought and affection to cataloguing and indexing libraries, and to associated bibliographical and literary pursuits.

It was in 1841, that he was first, and temporarily, engaged by this Society to catalogue its Library. Subsequently to this, he performed the same laborious task for between twenty and thirty other libraries, belonging either to public institutions or private possessors. This occupied his time for many years.

In 1855, he was appointed our Assistant Librarian, a title which was recently changed to that of Resident Librarian. In 1856, he completed a new catalogue of our Library, which was then printed; and he prepared and saw through the press our present printed catalogue in 1879. He also compiled for us two indexes of subjects, the latter one constituting the most complete extant English guide to Medical bibliography. Since 1879, he has also produced the supplements to our catalogue.

In all his Library work, Mr. Wheatley was from the first most original, and introduced novelties both of general plan and of detail great and small. His system has been admired and imitated, and will remain as a useful guide in the future. His work, beyond that done for our Library, is recorded elsewhere.

With us, his personal characteristics were, as acknowledged by the Council, "constancy and fidelity in the discharge of his duty," combined with singular unselfishness as to reward. He was uniformly zealous, attentive, and obliging, in all his relations with the Fellows of this Society. He was charged with certain responsibilities beyond those attaching to our Library; for he was engaged in assisting the two other Societies, which meet in these rooms. All this rather heavy work he did indefatigably and conscientiously,—regarding his labours as a pleasure. His last thoughts, and almost his last words, related to our affairs. He had, indeed, served us with his whole heart,

for nearly thirty years. In a letter which he penned some years since, before his salary was raised, he appeals to the Council to consider, in the event of his death, the position of those dependent upon him; and now, notwithstanding his recently increased resources, the Society will doubtless respond to a wish, that, in memory of his faithful services, some provision should be made towards adding to the comforts of his surviving sister and niece.

In the concluding part of my Address last year, I dwelt on a general fact, which appeared to me to convey a striking lesson, drawn from the story of the lives of those whose careers it had been my duty to portray. It was this, that whatever might have been the conditions affecting them, as regards age, education, position, or wealth, all were characteristically *devoted to work*. I ventured by this allusion to indicate that we, the existing Fellows of the Society, might emulate their example.

But, on quitting this Chair, in which I have been placed by your favour and supported by your kindness, it would be unjust not to look beyond the borders and ranks of our own Institution, and wrong to be so blind to what is passing around us, as to assign to our own Fellows, a monopoly, or even a speciality of industry, and an exclusive claim to be considered as guides in reference to what we may accomplish during our lives, or as patterns for imitation after our deaths.

There are other Medical Societies in this Metropolis, comprising numerous able, energetic, and enthusiastic Members, many of whom are, indeed, likewise associated with us. The Medical Society of London, the oldest of the General Societies, founded in 1773, and antedating by thirty-two years our own Society, which was instituted in 1805, is now exhibiting renewed vigour. The Hunterian, established in 1819, and the Harveian in 1831, occupy special ground, and carry out their objects with complete efficiency. In the Appendix to 'Churchill's Medical Directory' for 1846 (the second year of its publication),

these four societies are mentioned. There also existed at that date, the Medico-Psychological Society, established in 1841, and the Royal Medico-Botanical Society which appears now to be extinct. Besides these, there were the Students' and Local Societies, such as the Physical at Guy's (1772), the Middlesex Hospital Society (1774), the Abernethian at St. Bartholomew's (1795), the Westminster Society (1809), King's College Society (1833), and the South London (1845). But, if we consult the 'Medical Directory' for 1883, we find that the Students' and Local Societies have increased from six to fourteen; and that, omitting Societies the objects of which are only remotely allied to Medicine, the general and special Medical Societies in London now number thirteen instead of six, and, moreover, that eight of these have been instituted since the date which I have taken as a starting point, viz. 1845. Of these the Pathological, the first in point of age and strength, was founded in 1846, and now has 690 Members; the Epidemiological was established in 1850; the Odontological in 1856; the Society of Medical Officers of Health, also in 1856; the Obstetrical, which now has 695 Members, in 1858; the Clinical, with its 396 present Members, in 1867; the Dental Surgeons' Association, in 1876; and, finally, the Ophthalmological, in 1880.

Now, it is scarcely possible to estimate the amount of scientific and practical work, which has been, and is being, accomplished by the agency of these various metropolitan societies, whether old or new; but we may freely acknowledge the great energy and enthusiasm of their more active members.

If next we turn our attention to the provinces, we find that there are upwards of fifty Medical Societies, large and small, scattered throughout England and Wales, of which not ten were in existence in the year 1845, and most of which have been founded since the year 1860,—a proof of the ever-developing spirit of inquiry characteristic of our time.

Nor can we fail to be struck with the astonishing growth and present gigantic proportions of the British Medical Association, which, founded in 1832, has now spread out its branches into each of the three divisions of the United Kingdom. Organised for various purposes connected with the welfare of our profession, it has by no means neglected the prosecution of its due share of scientific and practical work. At its numerous annual gatherings, it has its appointed sections devoted to special subjects; it has its communications in each section, the reports of its committees, and its prizes; whilst its doings or Transactions are published in its own Journal. Its local or Branch meetings exhibit a like activity on a smaller scale. Quite recently, too, by means of its Collective Investigation Committee, it has inaugurated a large scheme, with the view of rescuing from oblivion some of that knowledge and experience which, as I hinted at in my last year's address, ordinarily goes down into the grave with its hard-working acquirers. That the functions of the more important of these societies, whether metropolitan or provincial, are actively discharged, is shown by the reports of their Proceedings, published in their own way, or in the columns of the weekly journals, whose amplified and multiplied pages plainly testify, otherwise, to the manifold industry of our profession at large. New journals also have appeared, published either monthly, quarterly, or at longer intervals, to absorb the ever-increasing amount of original work. The numerous Hospital Reports furnish additional evidence of an enormous expenditure of time and labour. Lastly, it may be noted that whereas in 1846, there were published in Great Britain about 65 original Medical books, in 1881, 1882, and 1883 respectively, the numbers were 108, 119, and 163, besides 56, 58, and 90 new editions.

Time does not permit me to illustrate, as I would wish, the contemporaneous increase of professional activity in Scotland and Ireland; but it has been sufficiently manifest, and requires most ample acknowledgment.

Neither can I do more than allude to the extraordinary development and progress made, during the last thirty or forty years, in the sciences relating to Medicine and Surgery in Germany and France, in Belgium and Holland, in Denmark and Sweden, in Austria and Russia, in Switzerland and Italy, and in the United States. Their great Hospitals and Laboratories, their multitude of Academies and Societies, their long lists of *Abhandlungen*, *Zeitschriften*, *Archive* and *Jahrbücher*, their *Mémoires*, *Bulletins*, *Comptes Rendus* and *Annales*, their *Acta* and *Denkschriften*, and their teeming individual publications, all bear testimony to this. But I may not omit to notice the numerous general and special Congresses held by our Continental and American brethren, as quite a feature of our epoch, culminating in the International Congress, the great meeting of which, in 1881, we all remember, and which will again assemble in August at Copenhagen. These can only be regarded as great outbursts of otherwise dormant professional energy.

As the mind travels out over this wide field of exertion, and contemplates the operations of the vast hive of modern Medical Investigators, one fails to grasp the total product which they yield; but we may easily perceive how much the various existing Medical Associations must help to stir the ambition and stimulate the zeal of individual agents, in the one common task of advancing Medicine and Surgery. In comparison with the striking scientific advances made and the great practical improvements actually accomplished, during the last thirty or forty years,—on the one hand, the pathological application of the cell-theory, the clearer explanation of the phenomena of inflammation, the new light thrown on nervous diseases, and the discovery of disease germs, and on the other, the splendid triumph over pain by the systematic administration of anæsthetics, the great benefits conferred by antiseptic surgery, the successes of modern ovariotomy, the employment of hypodermic injections, the use of the aspirator, the performance of bloodless operations, and a

host of minor practical improvements—in comparison, I say, with these realised gains, the share taken by this or that Country or this or that Society, in inciting to their initiation or perfection, is of little moment. But yet I must return to our own compact little Body, which though small relatively to the total numbers engaged in the struggle against suffering and death, forms an integral and not ignoble part of the whole.

This Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society has now existed during well nigh eighty years. It has numbered amongst its Fellows all the most distinguished members of our profession in the Metropolis, many Provincial Physicians and Surgeons, and, in its Honorary lists, numerous home and foreign representatives, not only of Medicine and Surgery, but of the sciences related to them. It has held its onward course without serious dissensions from within, and without exciting hostility from without. It has accumulated a splendid library comprising nearly 29,000 volumes, the most valuable circulating medical library in London, perhaps in the world. It has held its fortnightly meetings, bringing men into good fellowship and minds into useful contact. It has published sixty-six volumes of 'Transactions,' consisting entirely of original papers, or of reports from its select committees, and the contents of which are alike remarkable for historic interest and practical value, embracing almost every capital subject in medicine and surgery, and bearing some relation to almost every great achievement in our art.

Although, happily, this Society is so firmly established that its strength and its continued prosperity depend more upon its Members than upon its temporary head, I confess to have felt the great responsibility of the Presidential office; and, when elected, I reflected much on the various modes in which the interests of the Society might best be served. Certain proposals, originating in and adopted by the Council, have, according to our 'Reports,' worked very satisfactorily. Besides these, however, a project, not by any means novel, lingered long in my thoughts,

namely, that of attempting immediately, or at some future time, a combination of certain of the more recently formed metropolitan Medical societies, clustered, as it were, around the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society as their centre. But the more closely I considered this proposition, the more wise it seemed, at least for the present, to abstain from occupying time and energy by bringing it again before the Council; and the more prudent it appeared to be, to give preference to the plan of pursuing resolutely our own way in the maintenance of our proper position.

In the first place, considering the subject from a general point of view, the previous failures in the attempts at combination were necessarily deterrent as regards another trial; it seemed to me doubtful how far any fresh proposal of the kind should originate with the President; rather it appeared to be more appropriate that it should proceed from the Council itself; further it was open to question whether it should not be suggested by the younger Societies to us, and not by us to them; and lastly, I thought that in any case the best preliminary step towards such a union, if it were to be satisfactory, would be to maintain our own status and reputation, or, if possible, to elevate the one and increase the other.

In the second place, looking more closely into the subject on its merits, it seemed that though the contemplated union might satisfy the desire for centralization and furnish the means of securing certain economies, it might have its difficulties and its disadvantages. Each one of these younger Societies (for there is, I presume, no question as to the three elder ones) obviously arose from a felt want; its suggestion was quickly responded to, its establishment forthwith followed. By each, much new and admirable work has been achieved, in some instances, especially in that of the Pathological Society, as remarkable for its quality as for its amount. Nor should this be a matter of surprise; for it is usually held that division of labour is not only a sign, but a need and a cause of advancement. As

the circle of knowledge is progressively widened, its marginal explorers stand further and further apart from one another, the horizon of investigation is seen by them from more and more widely separated points of view, and room is made for additional intermediate workers. It may well be doubted indeed, whether if, in place of enjoying the freedom and stimulus to action resulting from an independent organisation, these Societies had been incorporated with our own as sections of a larger scientific body, so much good work would have been accomplished in the past; and it is by no means certain that under similar conditions of union, more would be done in the future.

A recent example of such a combination seems, however, full of promise, and may, some day, encourage a further attempt amongst ourselves. In Dublin, four already established Societies, the Medical, Surgical, Obstetrical, and Pathological, have been merged in the "Academy of Medicine in Ireland," in which they are now represented by four corresponding Sections, to which two subsections have been added, one for Anatomy and Physiology, and one in relation to Public Health. The details of the plan have been carefully considered, the rules are simple, and, as a beginning, the experiment is highly satisfactory. But the conditions of the problem in Dublin are very different from those which exist in London. The population of Dublin and its immediate vicinity is about 300,000; that of London and its suburbs above 4,000,000. In Dublin and its neighbourhood, there are less than 600 Medical Practitioners of all ranks and titles; in the total Metropolitan area, there are about 4000. In the voting for or against the formation of the "Academy of Medicine in Ireland," 192 suffrages were cast in favour of, and 20 against the proposal, making a total of 212 individuals concerned in the proceeding; whilst the Academy itself numbers at the present moment 204 Fellows and 24 Members,—there being two classes of Associates. On the other hand, in London, it would be necessary to consider the wishes of between 600 and 700

individuals, who would be interested in any new arrangements.

It must not be forgotten, moreover, that the opportunities and materials for observation and study—whether for Pathological or Clinical, Medical, Surgical, or even Obstetrical purposes—are widely different in the two cities. In Dublin, there are now twenty-eight Institutions for the reception of the Sick, including Hospitals, Infirmaries, and Dispensaries; whilst in London, besides the eleven large Hospitals, there are upwards of 170 smaller Charitable Medical Institutions. So rapidly have they increased, that in the year 1846, a date I have previously referred to, only sixty-three of these were in existence; and by far the larger number of the 110, since added, have been instituted since 1860. This is altogether independent of Poor Law, Union, or Parochial Establishments for the Sick Poor. That many of these numerous centres of medical observation yield little material, of novelty or of interest, is very true; that none of them are, at present, utilized for the purposes of Clinical teaching or practice, as they might and ought to be, has been long urged. But it is undoubtedly from them, viewed as a whole, that rich stores of morbid specimens are now obtained for microscopic investigation, and, in them, that many careful Clinical studies are conducted. As President of the Royal College of Surgeons, which is deeply interested in perfecting its noble Pathological Collection, I may be pardoned for reminding those who may hear or read this Address, and who are in the habit of resorting to these sources of material for the advance of knowledge, how much they may be able to assist in enriching the College Museum.

As the retiring President of this Society, I point to these numerous Institutions as constituting a vast field of research, filled with so overwhelming an amount of the undetermined and the unknown, that their existence supplies a powerful reason for avoiding any step which might endanger the continuance of the active energy, which

happily distinguishes the separate and somewhat rival organisations which are now employed in their utilisation.

I believe that we may bequeath the amalgamation of the existing Metropolitan Societies as a legacy for the future. I do not say it should not, or will not, come to pass ; but, for the moment, it seems to me that their free and independent action, and their separate status, is so much more in accord with the immense work to be accomplished, and so much more equal to its achievement, that I am satisfied, or even more than satisfied, with that independence, and I would here most heartily wish them all possible success. So certain are partial acquisitions to lead to a general gain, that I believe this Society, which may claim to be *general* and *non-exclusive* in the highest and widest sense, will ultimately profit in its own sphere of utility by the auxiliary exertions of the others ; and in the fervent hope and firm belief that this will prove to be so, I now resign my office, feeling the utmost confidence in the future progress and continued prosperity of this distinguished scientific Body.

